

Green Party of Dallas County

Minutes 11/19/2016
Opening Bell Coffee
1409 S. Lamar Street, Dallas

Attendees: Alison Bittick, William Barr, Rick Schoolcraft, Roy Carl Stanley, Rick Meagley, Kevin McCormick, Deadra Marsh-Foy, Zen Foy, Gary Stuard, Joy Vidhecharoen.

1. Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Joy Vidhecharoen.
2. Four current members of GPDC were present (Vidhecharoen, Stuard, McCormick, and Barr). Two new members joined the group (Rick Schoolcraft and Rick Meagley).
3. Rick Meagley volunteered for the task of Stack Keeper for this meeting.
4. Joy made a plea for starting to raise money for the coming ballot access challenge.
5. Discussion was had on replacing the GPDC secretary who has missed more than 3 meetings without explanation.
6. Gary volunteered to assume responsibilities of secretary.
7. Discussion was had on voting on replacing secretary at this meeting, with the consensus being that it would be more democratic to announce an election for a replacement secretary prior to holding the election. Motion was made and passed to hold an election for secretary at the December meeting.
8. Discussion was then had on deciding on a location for the December meeting. Roy indicated that he personally knew the owner of the Wine Post in Oak Cliff and that the owner was happy to allow groups to meet for free. Roy verified that we would have space. Other options put forth were La Madelaine (but must spend minimum \$50) and Central Market. Motion was presented to have the **December 18th meeting at Wine Post from 1-3 pm** and passed. (The meeting day was moved to Sunday because of other Green Party groups meeting on the 3d Saturday.)
9. Discussion was had on monitoring Texas legislative activities once the Legislature reconvened on February 10th. Gary volunteered to review bills impacting the environment. Kevin agreed to watch Election Code changes,

and Rick S. would watch out for labor issues. Gary remarked that letter writing was the most effective way of influencing legislators and that the Green Party needed to have a presence in Austin.

10. Joy lead a discussion evaluating this past election in terms of strengths and weaknesses:

STRENGTHS

1. better list/slate of candidates
2. more potential volunteers because of election year and active campaigns
3. Reached out to other groups = more voters aware of Green Party
4. better use of multimedia
5. proactive in getting media
6. poll greeting
7. positive reaction from public
8. showing up at events
9. had tabling events (e.g., Veggie Festival)
10. had campus events such as candidate debate & VP Baraka forum
11. active candidates
12. provided the progressive alternative for nonGreen voters (e.g., Bernie camp voters)
12. connected with other groups, e.g., DSA, labor

WEAKNESSES

1. lack of local support on the ground
2. inclusiveness --everybody should have had a job/be utilized
3. event communication (invite everyone -- personal network)
4. lack of acceptance of other's ideals (i.e., Dems)
5. lack of coalitions and endorsements
6. shut out from media coverage
7. lack of financial & other support from state party
8. no scheduling of endorsement (need to have local and state parties endorse)
9. endorsements came only a month before election (needed coordinated)
10. lack of front office organization -- no bank account or materials
11. lack of calendar/time line
12. volunteers were not assigned tasks/team work failure --enthusiasm but no action/response

13. no followup on volunteers [no follow-up to task communication (co-chairs need to follow up)]
14. lack of accountability to the party
15. failure to attend significant number of community events/community outreach
16. lack of diversity (millenials, colors, females)
17. lack of materials to hand out (flyers, etc)
18. not functioning as a safe place

ORGANIZING FOR THE FUTURE

1. Quadrants/Regional Subgroups
2. Creation of work groups
3. Organizing by precincts
4. Talk to your neighbors
5. Attend town hall meetings of legislators
6. Attend City Council meetings – or watch online
7. Reaching out to different groups
8. Ask volunteers to reach out to their affinity groups
9. Change order of agenda
10. Add orientation for new members at general meeting

ACTION ITEMS

1. Jan 10 Texas Legislative Session begins
 2. Know your legislator
 3. Letter writing campaign for specific bills
-
11. Alison suggested that the Green Party 10 Values be handed out at the beginning of each meeting
 12. Pass-the-hat donations were collected from those present to help start an account for the DCGP (total \$36 held by treasurer).

Meeting adjourned.